

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: APRIL 11 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT
SECRETARY VANCE OPENED AN ADMINISTRATION CAMPAIGN TO BUILD
SUPPORT FOR PROJECTED SALT TREATY BY PLEDGING THAT U.S.
WOULD SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT ONLY IF IT IMPROVED WESTERN
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SECURITY. GWERTZMAN NOTED THAT VANCE'S ADDRESS TO AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS WAS HIS FIRST SPEECH ON THIS
SUBJECT. VANCE, GWERTZMAN REPORTED, SAID HE HOPED TO
NARROW REMAINING STRATEGIC ARMS DIFFERENCES WITH RUSSIANS
-- BUT DID NOT EXPECT TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS -- WHEN HE IS
IN MOSCOW LATER THIS MONTH. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREE-
MENT COULD LEAD TO NEW ARMS RACE COSTING SEVERAL BILLION

DOLLARS, VANCE SAID, BUT ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED "TO PAY EXTRA PRICE" RATHER THAN RUSH INTO AN INEQUITABLE ACCORD. IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING THAT SOVIET UNION HAS AGREED TO AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS NEXT MONTH ON SUSPENDING TESTING OF SO-CALLED "HUNTER-KILLER SATELLITES, VANCE ALSO SAID MOSCOW HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON RESTRAINT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SALES. VANCE

EMPHASIZED "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION ON MULTILATERAL RESTRAINT."

2. WILLIAM DELANEY OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID WHILE VANCE'S PREPARED REMARKS GAVE NO DETAILS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS, SECRETARY PREFACED THEM BY SAYING: "WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ARMS TRANSFERS TO ADVANCE OUR OWN SECURITY AND THAT OF OUR FRIENDS. BUT AT SAME TIME, WE ARE BEGINNING TO CHECK FLOW OF OUR OWN ARMS EXPORTS."

3. JAMES RESTON OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID "THERE IS GREAT DEAL TO BE SAID ABOUT THIS NEUTRON ISSUE ON ALL SIDES, BUT MAYBE IT IS NOT QUITE AS URGENT AS IT SEEMS. THERE IS LONG LEAD-TIME IN PRODUCING THESE WEAPONS, AND IT WILL BE LONGER STILL BEFORE THEY ARE PUT IN PLACE, IF THEY EVER ARE. MEANWHILE, CARTER HAS LOT TO DISCUSS WITH SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV AFTER VANCE MISSION TO MOSCOW ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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LARGER QUESTION OF ARMS RACE AND POLITICAL RIVALRIES IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. AND THIS ALSO LOOMS IN CARTER'S MIND, LARGER THAN PRESENT DISPUTE OVER THIS ONE IMPORTANT WEAPON."

4. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "FECKLESS DECISION-MAKING," WALL STREET JOURNAL DECLARED THAT "IF STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT IS REACHED, SENATE WILL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT IT COMES FROM AN ADMINISTRATION WHERE DEFENSE ADVOCACY IS WEAK, DISARMAMENT IMPULSES ARE INBRED AND PRESIDENT IS APPARENTLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO MORALIZING SERMONS. SENATE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THIS PROCESS WILL PRODUCE BETTER JUDGMENTS IN SALT THAN IT HAS ON ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD."

5. U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SAID "STATE DEPARTMENT INSIDERS REPORT THAT ANDREW YOUNG, AMBASSADOR TO U.N., AND PAUL WARNKE, CHIEF U.S. ARMS NEGOTIATOR, WERE STRONGEST VOICES TRYING TO PERSUADE CARTER TO BAN PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WARHEADS -- YOUNG ON MORAL GROUNDS, WARNKE IN BELIEF THAT RUSSIA MIGHT RECIPROCATATE, HALT DEVELOPMENT OF ONE OF ITS OWN MAJOR WEAPONS." MAGAZINE

ALSO SAID FORMER PRESIDENT FORD AND HENRY KISSINGER "HAVE
SIGNALLED WHITE HOUSE NOT TO EXPECT THEIR BACKING FOR
NEW SALT PACT WITH RUSSIA. ALTHOUGH ARMS AGREEMENT IS
SIMILAR TO ONE NEGOTIATED BY FORD ADMINISTRATION, FORD
AND KISSINGER FEEL CARTER'S CANCELLATION OR SLOWDOWN OF
MAJOR WEAPONS PROGRAMS CHANGES WHOLE STRATEGIC PICTURE."

6. MICHAEL BURNS, IN DISPATCH TO BALTIMORE SUN FROM BONN,
SAID ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WEST GERMAN LEADERS AP-

PARENTLY HAVE DECIDED THEY ARE ANGRY ABOUT CARTER'S
DECISION TO DELAY PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON WEAPONS. HE
SAID CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER,
HOWEVER, ARE AVOIDING PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CARTER DECISION
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TO PREVENT FURTHER RIFT IN U.S.-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS.

7. WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIALY CHARGED THAT AMBASSA-
DOR WARNKE'S "LATEST BRAINSTORM IS PROPOSAL FOR AN AGREE-
MENT BY ALL NUCLEAR POWERS TO STOP MAKING PLUTONIUM AND
HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES. NOTION IS
THAT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER NUCLEAR ARMS, WEAPONS BUILDERS
WOULD HAVE TO SCRAP OLD WEAPONS TO GET MATERIAL FOR NEW
ONES. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, ENLISTED IN AID OF THIS
IDEA, HAS PROPOSED IT FOR SUBMISSION TO UNGA'S SSOD
NEXT MONTH.... VERIFICATION OF MR. WARNKE'S LATEST
PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF PRODUCTION AND ULTI-
MATE USE OF EVERY SCRAP OF URANIUM AND PLUTONIUM IN
SOVIET UNION. THIS TASK, UNDER WARNKE-VANCE PROPOSAL,
WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO IAEA, BUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL
BUREAUCRATS IN VIENNA. IAEA CONTROLS ARE USEFUL FOR
CERTAIN LIMITED PURPOSES, BUT SOVIETS DO NOT ACCEPT THEM
FOR ANYTHING. WITH THIS PROPOSAL, MR. WARNKE IS NOT ONLY
FORGETTING NEED FOR VERIFICATION, HE IS MOCKING IT." VANCE

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